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## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

## **NEW QUATERNARY AMMONIUM COMPOUNDS**

A compound of formula corresponding to either formula (Ia) or (Ib):

$$M - (X)_n - N \stackrel{\bigoplus}{\underset{R_2}{\longleftarrow}} \frac{R_1}{R_2} . Hal^{\Theta}$$
 (Ia)

wherein:

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M represents a molecule that can be used for the treatment or diagnosis of pathologies caused by attack on the cartilage,

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> represent alkyl, or R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, form a heterocycle,

X represents a (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)alkylene chain in which one or more -CH<sub>2</sub>- groups are optionally replaced by sulphur, oxygen, or -NR-, -CO-, -CO-NH-, -CO<sub>2</sub>-, -SO- or -SO<sub>2</sub>-,

n represents 0 or 1,

Hal represents halogen,

or,

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
A & \oplus \\
B - N - R_4 & \cdot \text{Hal}^{\Theta}
\end{array} (Ib)$$

R<sub>4</sub> represents alkyl,

Hal represents halogen,

B N represents a molecule that can be used for the treatment or diagnosis of pathologies caused by attack on the cartilage, wherein the nitrogen atom may optionally be included in a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic system, or included in a double bond.